

**Community of Christ**  
**Fairbanks Branch Happenings**  
**February 15, 2006**

The theme for this Sunday is “Bring Friends to Jesus”

**Bright and  
Radiant is our future  
In our faith and in Jesus  
Now, why would we not  
Gladly share it with friends?**

**Faithful Friends**

We read in the Gospels about many encounters Jesus had with strangers. People were constantly approaching Him with some great need. It seemed wherever He went, there was someone there needing to be healed, needing friends or loved ones to be healed, needing to be taught, needing to be corrected, needing mercy...

Mark 2 begins with another interesting encounter with someone who desperately wanted to see Jesus. This was early in Jesus’ ministry when He was becoming a popular and somewhat famous preacher. He had come to a home in Capernaum (possibly Peter’s) and of course, a huge crowd gathered there. As He did so often, Jesus took this opportunity to preach the word. A paralyzed man wanted to see this famous preacher but was confronted by a problem. It had become so crowded that the men carrying him couldn’t get close enough. So, what did these friends do? They went up on the roof, made a hole, and lowered the paralyzed man down. Upon seeing this, Jesus declared to the paralyzed man “*Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.*” Later, to show His great power, Jesus actually healed the man of his paralysis.

Some have pointed to this story as something of a joke. A humorous story about how far people will go in order to see a celebrity. The truth is, though, that the paralyzed man showed a tremendous amount of faith in this preacher. He had gone through all this trouble because he knew enough to know that Jesus was his only hope. Along with his faith, the paralyzed man had another asset in his faithful friends. These men who carried him and lowered him down also showed a tremendous amount of faith in Jesus. They really had nothing to gain, but they knew that Jesus could help their friend. So sure were they; that went to extraordinary measures just to get their friend near to Jesus. No body would go through such effort on behalf of a friend unless they truly believed the friend would be helped.

Of course, we know that the paralyzed man in the story was rewarded for his faith in Jesus. Today, just as it is in the story, anyone who seeks Him will be rewarded. *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.* (Hebrews 11:6) This points out for us one meaning of faith: having such confidence that knowing anyone you bring to Jesus will be in good hands.

So, how are far would you go to bring a friend to Jesus?

Posted by Neil Emory at 5:52 PM Wednesday, September 28, 2005  
<http://neilemory.blogspot.com/2005/09/faithful-friends.html>

## **Announcements:**

Today is Dick Davies and Dorothy Hibbard's birthday. I could not send this out today without sending them a special birthday wish. Guys- have a blessed day full of whatever it is you desire!!!

Fairbanks has a new Aggie. Kristen Jackson will be attending Texas A&M in the Fall. Gig'em!! Congratulations Kristen!!!

Last Sunday, we had our annual Valentines Dinner at Fairbanks. A good time was had by all and we all enjoyed the wonderful food, decorations, entertainment and fellowship. Many thanks go out to all that were involved in making this a great event. THANKS TO: Dottie Davies and Margie White for being the coordinators, Ina Mae Reimer for decorating, and Steve and Beth Herold for emceeding the event and to all those who helped with the clean up. We were treated to a fun round of Family Feud combined with Who Wants to Be a Millionaire. Competition was high as was the silliness and laughter.

**College Boxes:** We will be collecting items again to send out to college kids from the Houston area congregations. Please bring your items to the church. We will be collecting for a couple of weeks and plan to send out the boxes at the beginning of March. Ina Mae Reimer is coordinating this event. If you have a child in college, please give Ina Mae their address so that they will receive this "goody box".

**Camp Sionito** is in search of a **logo**. See the Mission Center web page for information on submitting ideas for the new logo

**Herald in Every Home** – If you would like to continue receiving or start receiving The Herald, it is renewal time. To sign up please drop your check in the collection plate or give it to Paul Baird. The check should be marked that it is for The Herald and should be made out to Community of Christ for \$24.00.

**See Mission Center web page for more information**

**Feb. 18-19** - Congregational Leadership Retreat at Camp Sionito

**Feb. 24-26** - Exploration Group Session (Houston, TX)

The following is a schedule of those that are currently scheduled to deliver the message for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. This is not the "official list" and is for informational purposes only. Please refer to the worship schedule in the fellowship hall for changes.

February 19<sup>th</sup> - Doug White

February 26<sup>th</sup> – Leo & Carole Caesar

March 5<sup>th</sup> - David Romig

March 12<sup>th</sup> – John Reimer

March 19<sup>th</sup> – Sue Turner

March 26<sup>th</sup> – Leo & Carole Caesar

The nursery schedule cannot be posted in the family center for January through March 2006. Please contact Andrea if you are interested in volunteering in the nursery this quarter.

Nursery Schedule:

**We need volunteers for the nursery. Please see Andrea Watson.**

Please review the prayer list in the Sunday bulletin. If you have added someone to the list please update Leo Caesar with any new information and current status of the prayer concern. Please contact Leo Caesar if you wish to add/remove someone from the list.

**Calendar & Mission Center News:**

The Coastal Bend Mission Center is proud to announce that the Coastal Bend web site is up and running! You can visit the site at [www.coastalbendmc.org](http://www.coastalbendmc.org)

**Feb. 18-19** - Congregational Leadership Retreat at Camp Sionito

**Feb. 24-26** - Exploration Group Session (Houston, TX)

The Coastal Bend Mission Center (CBMC) has established a Youth Campership Fund to assist youth attending summer youth events. This program is not tied to any local congregational campership program. Any youth, member or friend of Community of Christ, residing within CBMC, may apply for one (1) campership per youth event (Sionito Youth Camp, IYF or Spec). Each eligible camper will receive up to \$50 per event, depending upon demand for camperships. To receive the campership, the youth must complete the application information shown below.

Please complete the application information by April 30, 2006 and forward to the Mission Center President and Financial Officer, Mark Euritt.

The options for completing and forwarding the application are:

1) online using the <a href="#">website</a> form
2) send a copy you can get <a href="#">HERE</a> via mail to:
Mark Euritt, Coastal Bend Mission Center 311 West Annie Austin, TX 78704

I will be sending out periodic e-mails letting everyone know what is “HAPPENING” at Fairbanks. Please let me know if your e-mail or other contact information changes.

Mark your calendars and **participate, enjoy, reach out!!!!!!**I pray that everyone have a safe and happy week.

*Martha Romig*